

FERNDALE BOROUGH

Regular Meeting

March 9, 2023

The Ferndale Borough Council met on Thursday, March 9, 2023, in the Fireman's Recreation Hall at 618 Westinghouse Avenue, Johnstown, PA.

President Owen Hofecker called the meeting to order at 6:00 P.M. Those present recited the Pledge of Allegiance to the U.S. Flag.

ROLL CALL

The Roll Call showed the following present: VP Eric Baumbaugh, Art Boring, Trish Corle, Cindy Dom, Connie Hobbs, President Owen Hofecker, Mark Wissinger Jr, Mayor Ralph Boyle, Attorney Joe Green, Secretary Nancy Hofecker, and Street Foreman Sean Simmons. Absent: Police Chief Adam Richards.

A motion was made by Trish Corle to adopt the March 9, 2023 agenda seconded by Eric Baumbaugh. The motion carried.

VISITOR'S

Zachary Neal was present to observe.

Bill Cornell was also present. He addressed council asking for permission to use the upstairs hall for fire training.

MINUTES

There were no changes to the February 9, 2023 minutes. A motion was made by Trish Corle to accept the minutes, seconded by Art Boring. The motion carried.

President Owen Hofecker did a little recap of the committee meeting. Those in attendance were: VP Eric Baumbaugh, Art Boring, Trish Corle, Cindy Dom, Connie Hobbs, President Owen Hofecker, Mark Wissinger, Mayor Ralph Boyle. They created the agenda for this evening's meeting and reviewed the action items that are listed.

PERSONNEL

Trish Corle mentioned that when they hired the new full-time officer he asked if there was compensation for not taking the healthcare. As of now it is not listed as an option in the personnel policy. Council will have further discussion of it at the committee meeting.

SOLICITOR'S REPORT

Attorney Joe Green said that Ms. Edwards will be going into her house to retrieve some personal items on March 24th and March 25th. She will then turn the keys into the borough office or the police station. Council will then be boarding up the property until it can be demolished.

Council had some questions for Attorney Green regarding placing stop signs. Attorney Green suggested that they review the ordinance and rewrite it listing all the stop signs.

MAYOR AND POLICE REPORTS

Mayor Ralph Boyle said that Chief Richards was absent because he was teaching at Penn Highlands this evening.

There was a truck sitting on our property at 535-535 ½ Vickroy Avenue, it has since been removed. 305 Summit Avenue has cleaned up the garbage along side the property.

The AED is in service. Chief Richards did a press release thanking those that donated to the purchase of the AED.

Car 850 went to the garage because of a knocking noise. It turns out it was the sway bar which was under warranty.

Ferndale High School is having a road cleanup day on Friday, March 24th. They will be picking up trash along Ferndale Avenue.

Trish Corle shared information about sponsoring a cadet. Attorney Green was given a copy of an agreement from another municipality to look over. Attorney Green will look into it. Council will then have further discussion regarding it.

WEST HILLS REPORT

West Hills Regional e-mailed their report to the office, if anyone would like a copy, please contact the secretary.

FERNDALE FIREMAN'S ASSOC. REPORT

Mayor Ralph Boyle said that Police Chief Adam Richards came to the meeting and showed everyone the AED that was purchased. He also thanked all the members for the donation.

STREETS AND PROPERTY

Sean said that he ordered the remainder of the salt that was required. He said they have been working on starting to clean things up around the borough.

Sean said they will be repairing potholes again this year. He did get some prices on renting or purchasing a saw and a hot box. To rent a saw it would cost \$675.00 for a month. To purchase one would be \$2,477.00 plus the cost of a blade. The blade is around \$400.00 and it would cut concrete and asphalt. To rent a hot box for a month is \$3,450.00. To purchase a hot box is \$23,900.00.

Eric Baumbaugh went over the paving list they came up with. They put the streets on the list that aren't really able to be patched. He said they have about \$45,000.00 to work with.

TREES

No report given

SEWER/SEWER PROJECT REPORT

Frank DiLoreto was present from EADS.

Four pressure tests were completed in February.

Hystone Avenue Sewer Rehabilitation: EADS has submitted a final invoice. The DCED will be notified to liquidate the remaining \$61,541.00 from the grant to close everything out. As per Attorney Joe Green no need for the action item listed on the agenda to liquidate the funds.

Station St Walkway Rehabilitation Project: Due to existing utility concerns, the bidding for the project was delayed to coordinating with Peoples Natural Gas and GJWA to relocate their lines from underneath the existing sidewalk. EADS has coordinated with Peoples and GJWA on the utilities and there are no more concerns with the utilities. The bid can be repackaged and advertised for a fall construction.

Rigby Park Improvements Project: DCNR grant was awarded \$170,000.00 to the borough. This includes replacing the playground equipment, pavilion roofs, and adding ADA walkways to the pavilions and playground. EADS and DCNR completed the pre-con call on Feb 17th at 11:00am. The DCNR will be sending agreement documents for execution to begin the project. Due to federal funding requirements the engineering will need to be advertised and bid out for the project.

Local Share Account Statewide Program & GTRP Program: Announcement for the grants is anticipated to be March 16, 2023.

PennDot MTF Grant Application: Submitted grant for the Rigby Park Pedestrian Lighting Project. Announcement for the grant is anticipated to be April 2023.

DCED Small Water and Sewer Grants: Grants will be submitted for the following projects: Goucher St Storm Sewer Rehabilitation & Stormwater improvements and Manhole Rehabilitation. Announcement for the grant has not been determined. The DCED has submitted

a grant question to Ferndale for the storm project. EADS is helping draft a response to the DCED.

West Hills Regional Stormwater Meeting: This is for the creation of a stormwater authority with City of Johnstown, Westmont Borough, Southmont Borough, Brownstown Borough, Upper Yoder Township, Lower Yoder Township and Ferndale Borough. EADS and Ferndale attended the meeting to discuss the creating of the West Hills Stormwater Authority. The meeting was to determine interest in the other Boroughs. Another meeting will be scheduled for the end of March/early April to discuss estimated costs for a feasibility study to form a joint stormwater authority.

TAX COLLECTOR'S REPORT

Tax Collector's Report was presented for February 2023. The amount collected in February was \$1,031.65.

FINANCE/ACCOUNTS PAYABLE

A motion to pay all Accounts Payable was made by the committee, seconded by Cindy Dom. The motion carried.

PUBLIC RELATIONS

Trish Corle shared that Mayor Boyle received a letter from Goodwill. The letter was from Rich Lobb regarding the Moxham Food Pantry. Trish is going to reach out to Mr. Lobb to see what the need is. She is thinking they are looking for a location to distribute food.

RECREATION REPORT

No report given

OLD BUSINESS

Owen Hofecker said the church is asking permission to replace their signs at Atlee St. They would also like to place signs at both ends of Ferndale Avenue. Council agreed that would be okay.

NEW BUSINESS

No New Business

The meeting adjourned at 7:17pm with Cindy Dom making the motion seconded by Art Boring.

Respectfully submitted,
Nancy L. Hofecker
Borough Secretary

